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Vertical Falsework Clearance for Bridges Over Highways

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

To revise Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) policies to address vertical clearance to falsework at bridges over highways.

B. Background

Construction of new bridges, the reconstruction or widening of existing structures often requires the erection of falsework across the traveled way of a highway. The erection of this falsework can reduce the vertical clearance available for vehicles to pass under the work area. The potential for accidents to take place by hitting this lower construction stage falsework is increased.

C. Discussion

The *Design Manual* addresses vertical clearance for the final or end product but not for the actual construction stage that might be necessary to achieve that end product. This supplement provides the policy for vertical clearance to falsework at bridges over highways.

D. Implementation

This policy is effective immediately and will expire when the changes are incorporated in the *Design Manual*.

II. Instructions

- A. Insert a new *Design Manual* 1120.04(5)(a) Vertical Falsework Clearance for Bridges Over Highways:**

1120.04

(5)

- (a) Vertical Falsework Clearance for Bridges Over Highways**

- (1) On all routes that require 16-foot 6 inch vertical clearance, maintain 16-foot 6 inch, for falsework vertical clearance.
- (2) On structures that currently have less than 16-foot 6 inch clearance for the falsework envelope, do not reduce existing clearance.
- (3) On new structures, based on the final vertical clearance outlined in the *Design Manual*, the falsework vertical clearance shall not be less than the final bridge vertical clearance.
- (4) Any variance from (1), (2), or (3) must be approved by the Regional Administrator or designee in writing and made a part of the Project File.

- B. Renumber 1120.04(5)(a) *Minimum Clearance for New Structures* to:**

1120.04(5)(b) Minimum Clearance for New Structures

- C. Renumber 1120.04(5)(b) *Minimum Clearance for Existing Structures* to:**

1120.04(5)(c) Minimum Clearance for Existing Structures

- D. Renumber 1120.04(5)(c) *Signing* to:**

1120.04(5)(d) Signing

- E. Renumber 1120.04(5)(d) *Coordination* to:**

1120.04(5)(e) Coordination